

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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41

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 011653Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8043

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 13537

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, NI, US

SUBJ: POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF NIGERIAN OIL FOR PETROLEUM RESERVE

REF : STATE 289231

1. AT END OF CONVERSATION WITH PETROLEUM COMMISSIONER BUHARI NOVEMBER 30 REGARDING OPEC PRICE DECISION (LAGOS 13525), I ALLUDED TO ACTING SECRETARY'S CONVERSATION NOVEMBER 23 WITH NIGERIAN

CHARGE' OBE REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF LONG-TERM CONTRACT TO PURCHASE NIGERIAN CRUDE FOR THE US STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE. I ASKED BUHARI WHETHER HE HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THAT CONVERSATION.

2. NEITHER BUHARI NOR HIS ASSOCIATES AWONIYI AND MARINHO WERE AWARE OF THE CONVERSATION WITH OBE, BUT BUHARI SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD ABOUT THE RESERVE SCHEME AND THOUGHT THAT THE US HAD PROPOSED PURCHASE ARRANGEMENTS TO AT LEAST THREE OIL PRODUCERS, "ONE OF WHICH WAS AN ARAB COUNTRY."

3. I SAID I WAS UNAWARE OF DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL BUT THAT OBE HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT, IF THE FMG WISHED, 5#3 7 & 2-S WULLING SEND SOMEONE TO LAGOS TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY FURTHER. ALTERNATIVELY, SUCH EXPLORATORY TALKS COULD BE ARRANGED IN WASHINGTON. BUHASU SAID HE WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM MEA REGARDING THE CONVERSATION WITH OBE.

4. COMMENT: FACT THAT PETROLEUM MINISTRY UNAWARE OF ROBINSON/OBE
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CONVERSATION IS NOT NECESSARILY AN INDICATION OF FMG DISINTEREST

IN THE IDEA. MAY WELL BE SIMPLY ANOTHER INSTANCE OF SLOWNESS OF
COMMUNICATION WITHIN FMG BUREAUCRACY. I BELIEVE BUHARI WILL NOW
RPT NOW MAKE EFFORT OBTAIN REPORT ON THE MATTER FROM MEA.
EASUM

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NNN

Message Attributes

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